



## Department of State

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TELEGRAM

ACTION:  
S/S-15

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CONTROL: 888

RECEIVED: 21 FEB 74  
11:09 amINFO:  
AMB  
DCM  
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CHRONO 211520Z FEB 74 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE 8809  
BT  
UNCLAS STATE 034520

TOSEC 33

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER)  
SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

22.jmd

HEREWITH FULL TEXT JEREMIAH O'LEARY BYLINER AS CARRIED ON  
FRONT PAGE WASHSTAR-NEWS, FEBRUARY 21, 1974:

MEXICO CITY - SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER TOLD SENIOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS YESTERDAY THAT HE WOULD FEEL COMPELLED TO RESIGN IF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES VOTES FOR IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS AGAINST PRESIDENT NIXON.

IN A PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH A GROUP OF SOME OF THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS MEMBERS OF BOTH CHAMBERS ACCOMPANYING KISSINGER ON HIS FLIGHT YESTERDAY FROM WASHINGTON TO A CONFERENCE OF LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS HERE, THIS REPORTER WAS TOLD BY ONE OF THE LEGISLATORS, KISSINGER SAID HE FELT HE COULD NOT EFFECTIVELY CONDUCT THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES IF THE PRESIDENT IS IMPEACHED.

"WE SPENT SOME TIME TRYING TO PERSUADE HIM NOT TO MAKE SUCH A DECISION," SAID SEN. GALE MCGEE, D-WYO., WHO IS ON THE TRIP AS CHAIRMAN OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. "WE TOLD

SECRETARY KISSINGER THAT HE IS NEEDED MORE THAN EVER IN SECRETARY KISSINGER THAT HE IS NEEDED MORE THAN EVER IN HE CURRENT DISARRAY OF AMERICAN OOMEISTIC POLICY."

MCGEE SAID KISSINGER MADE IT CLEAR THAT HIS RESIGNATION WOULD FOLLOW A HOUSE VOTE TO IMPEACH THE PRESIDENT AND THAT HE WOULD NOT AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF THE SENATE "TRIAL" AT WHICH THE PRESIDENT'S GUILT OR INNOCENCE WOULD BE DECIDED.

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THE CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE WHEN KISSINGER INVITED THE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS FORWARD FOR A VISIT IN THE SECTION OF THE WHITE HOUSE PLANE USED BY HIM AND HIS STAFF.

BESIDES MCGEE, THE CONGRESSIONAL GROUP, WHICH WENT TO MEXICO AT KISSINGER'S INVITATION, INCLUDED: SENATE MAJORITY LEADER MIKE MANSFIELD, D-MONT.; SENATE MINORITY LEADER HUGH SCOTT, R-PA.; SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE CARL ALBERT D-OKLA., REP. DANTE FASCELL, D-FLA.; CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS AND FORMER REP. WILLIAM MAILLIARD, R.-CALIF.

THE BIPARTISAN GROUP OF CONGRESSMEN WAS SHOCKED BY KISSINGER'S DISCLOSURE OF AN INTENTION TO LEAVE THE GOVERNMENT IF IMPEACHMENT IS VOTED, ACCORDING TO MCGEE. THE REACTION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS, THIS REPORTER WAS TOLD, WAS THAT KISSINGER HAS BECOME ESSENTIAL AND IRREPLACABLE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN A TIME OF INTERNATIONAL CRISES AND TURMOIL AND THAT HIS DEPARTURE FROM OFFICE WOULD BE A CATASTROPHE.

KISSINGER IS KNOWN TO BELIEVE THAT NIXON WILL NEVER RESIGN. BUT IN CONVERSATIONS OVER THE NEARLY FIVE MONTHS HE HAS BEEN SECRETARY OF STATE, KISSINGER HAS LEFT NO DOUBT THAT HE CONSIDERS THE WATERGATE AFFAIR AND ITS REPERCUSSIONS HAVE HAD A MAJOR IMPACT ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

AS THE CONVERSATION WAS RELATED TO THIS REPORTER, KISSINGER DID NOT STATE HIS INTENTION TO RESIGN IN THE EVENT OF IMPEACHMENT WITH ANY OVERTONE OF THREAT. THE LEGISLATOR SAID KISSINGER'S ATTITUDE APPEARED TO HIM TO BE THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENTAL PROCESS WOULD BE SO PARALYZED BY AN IMPEACHMENT THAT FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES WOULD BE CRIPPLED.

THE EIGHT NEWSMEN TRAVELING WITH KISSINGER OBSERVED HIM ESCORTING THE CONGRESSMEN AND THEIR WIVES FOR A TOUR OF THE FORWARD AREA OF THE PLANE DURING THE FINAL HOUR OF THE FLIGHT. BUT THERE WAS NO HINT FROM KISSINGER OR THE BLUE-RIBBON CONGRESSIONAL GROUP DURING THE REST OF THE JOURNEY THAT ANYTHING AS EARTHSHAKING AS HIS POSSIBLE RESIGNATION HAD BEEN DISCUSSED. IT APPEARED TO THE REPORTERS THAT KISSINGER WAS ONLY OBSERVING A SOCIAL AMENITY IN SHOWING THE LEGISLATIVE GROUP AROUND HIS FLYING COMMAND POST.

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IN SEVERAL CHATS EARLIER WITH REPORTERS ON THE PLANE KISSINGER SEEMED AS JOVIAL AS HE USUALLY IS ON SUCH JOURNEYS. HE DID NOT MENTION ANYTHING REMOTELY TOUCHING ON HIS POSSIBLE RESIGNATION, GIVING A FEW LOW-KEY OBSERVATIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION AND ON THE LATIN MINISTERS CONFERENCE.

THE SECRETARY'S INTENTION TO RESIGN IN THE EVENT OF NIXON'S IMPEACHMENT WAS NOT DISCLOSED UNTIL LATER IN THE EVENING, AT A SMALL RECEPTION FOR THE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS IN THE OFFICIAL RESIDENCE OF U.S. AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO JOSEPH JOHN JOVA. KISSINGER SPENT THE EVENING CLOSETED WITH AIDES, WORKING ON DRAFTS OF THE MAJOR POLICY SPEECH HE WILL DELIVER TO THE LATIN FOREIGN MINISTERS LATER TODAY.

HE DID NOT APPEAR AT A "MEXICAN NIGHT" DINNER AND FOLKLORE ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAM GIVEN BY THE MAYOR OF MEXICO CITY LAST NIGHT AND COULD NOT BE REACHED FOR COMMENT.

SOME OF THE LEGISLATORS, MCGEE SAID, REACTED TO KISSINGER'S WORDS BY TELLING HIM HE COULD NOT BE SPARED. IT WAS ALSO MENTIONED TO KISSINGER BY SOME OF THE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS THAT THEY DID NOT THINK THERE WAS MUCH CHANCE OF THE HOUSE VOTING FOR IMPEACHMENT.

"WE WERE TRYING TO TALK HIM OUT OF IT," MCGEE SAID.

A HOUSE VOTE IN FAVOR OF IMPEACHMENT WOULD LEAVE IT UP TO THE SENATE TO DECIDE WHETHER THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN GUILTY OF MISCONDUCT IN OFFICE. THE PROCESS, IT IS CONCEDED BY ALL AUTHORITIES, WOULD BE LONG AND DEBILITATING FOR THE NATION AND ITS GOVERNMENT. IMPEACHMENT IS A PROCESS AKIN TO A TRIAL IN WHICH THE SENATE ACTS AS A JURY.

IT IS NOT KNOWN WHEN THE HOUSE WILL COME TO THE CRITICAL VOTE ON WHETHER NIXON'S IMPEACHMENT IS JUSTIFIED, BUT SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE IT COULD BE AS EARLY AS APRIL.

THE HOUSE ALREADY HAS VOTED FULL SUBPOENA POWERS TO ITS JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, HEADED BY REP. PETER RODINO, D-N.J. AND THIS COMMITTEE IS HEAVILY ENGAGED NOW IN PREPARING POSSIBLE CHARGES. END TEXT. RUSH

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